

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 /074 W

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R 131510Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0486

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 2433

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PDIP PFOR NU CS

SUBJECT: CHANGE IN COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA

REF: MANAGUA 2082

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 10 THAT ING. ABUNDIO GUTIERREZ MATARRITA WILL BE COSTA RICA'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA. GUTIERREZ SERVED AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE FROM 1962 TO 1966 AND DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL PRODUCTION COUNCIL FROM 1970-TO 1974, BOTH PLN ADMINISTRATIONS. HE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA AS AN AGRONOMIST IN 1950. HE HAS SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF THE CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE AND OF THE OFFICE OF COFFEE. THIS WILL BE HIS FIRST DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENT.

2. COMMENT: GUTIERREZ REPLACES CURRENT AMBASSADOR CARLOS CARMONA BENAVIDES WHO RECENTLY REFUSED ASYLUM IN THE COSTA RICAN EMBASSY TO A SANDINISTA. IN DISCUSSING THE REFUSAL, CARMONA INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN AN ACCORD BETWEEN ODUBER AND SOMOZA THAT COSTA RICA NOT ACCEPT NICARAGUAN ASYLEES. THE COSTA RICAN EMBASSY IN MANAGUA THEN ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON JUNE 5 DENYING SUCH

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AN AGREEMENT AND EXPLAINING ITS DENIAL IN THE CURRENT

CASE BY MEANS OF A NARROW, LEGALISTIC DEFINITION OF
POLITICAL ASYLUM. WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW
AMBASSADOR, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTEDLY DENIED THAT
THE CHANGE HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE ACTIONS OR SUB-
SEQUENT STATEMENTS OF CARMONA. IN ADDITION, THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY DENIED TO THE EMBASSY THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY
CHANGE IN THE TRADITIONAL COSTA RICAN POLICY TOWARD
POLITICAL ASYLUM. HOWEVER, THE "PRENSA LIBRE" OF
JUNE 6 QUOTED PRESIDENT ODUBER UPON HIS RETURN FROM
HIS SURPRISE VISIT TO NICARAGUA, AS SAYING IT IS BETTER
THAT BORDER NATIONS NOT RECEIVE ASYLEES--"IT IS
BETTER IF THEY SEEK ASYLUM IN OTHER EMBASSIES AND NOT
IN THOSE OF COSTA RICA AND HONDURAS."
TODMAN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
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